



# Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Press Release – 05-14  
January 13, 2014

## **NAVY EXTENDS SCOPING PERIOD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

The U.S. Navy has extended the scoping period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for EA-18G Growler airfield operations at NAS Whidbey Island's Ault Field and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville, including the proposed introduction of two additional expeditionary Electronic Attack (VAQ) squadrons and the addition of aircraft to the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS).

In response to public and elected official requests, and in order to ensure all surrounding communities have ample opportunity to provide input, the Navy has extended the scoping period until Friday, January 31. The scoping period began September 5, and the original deadline for scoping comments was January 3.

The lengthy public scoping period was due to the fact that the scoping meetings were scheduled for December 2013. These dates were chosen to avoid possible cancellation of the meetings during any government shutdown and to avoid conflicting with the P-8A Draft Supplemental EIS public meetings and comment period. These were also ongoing in the vicinity of NAS Whidbey Island during the same timeframe.

Public input is very important in order for the Navy to fully understand community concerns and relevant issues. Members of the public may submit comments via mail to: EA-18G EIS Project Manager (Code EV21/SS); Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Atlantic, 6506 Hampton Blvd, Norfolk, VA 23508. Comments may also be submitted to the project website: <http://www.whidbeyeis.com>.

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